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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes, Sir. I am happy about it. As a matter of fact, a suggestion was made that a measure should be enacted for this purpose. I then definitely said that now that there was cordial relationship and that there were also the probability and possibility of that cordial relationship continuing, there was no necessity for any special enactment. I am glad that the cordial relationship continues to exist, and I hope it will continue to exist in the future also.

Stake-net fishing licences

* 274 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state— 9–20 a.m.

(*a*) the number of stake-net fishing licences issued by the Government in the last week of May 1956 in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar; and

(*b*) the amount received by the Government as licence fees from the stake-net fishermen?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Fifteen stake-net licences were issued during the period.

(*b*) Rs. 2,416.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : May I know whether Government have received a complaint from five stake-net fishermen stating that even though they had the licences in the previous year they were not given the licence this year and if so what action have Government taken on the complaint to redress their grievances by granting the licences and thus enable them to earn their livelihood?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Certain complaints were received about the irregular issue of licences and the non-issue of licences to certain people. That was supported by the hon. Member also. Government have, therefore, referred them to the Collector for his report after going into the whole question.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : To eke out a livelihood by fishing either in the sea or in the backwaters is the elementary and fundamental right of every one of the fishermen. Such being the case, may I know the reasons that induced the Government to curtail those fundamental rights by imposing this licensing system?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the hon. Member has stated the exact reasons. It is the elementary right of the fishermen to fish in the waters. The use of the stake-nets would put the smaller fishermen who did not have that kind of nets at a serious disadvantage. Therefore, Government sought to restrict the use of these stake-nets and introduced this licensing system and certain regulations.

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SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Sir, formerly also there were complaints that there was unauthorized fishing with stake-nets resulting in suffering to fishermen and the Government promised to look into it and check such unauthorized fishing wherever necessary. May I know whether any steps were taken in that direction and with what result?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Sir, steps are being taken and it is those steps that are now under discussion on the question put by the hon. Member Sri Gopalan.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY: Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, are we to suppose that only persons who are in a position to pay the licence fee, namely, the rich men, will be allowed to fish with stake-nets in the sea or backwaters?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Issuing licence does not mean that the licence should go only to rich men. Fishermen earn much more by the use of this stake-net and even the poorest fisherman can afford to pay the licensing fee. The objective behind the introduction of this licensing system is that the use of these stake-nets should be restricted.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Regarding the issue of licences to five fishermen there were some disputes on the question of issue of certain certificates by the village munsif, Madai. The Collector went to that place and settled the whole dispute. All the parties agreed to the recommendation made by the Collector. Then the Additional Director of Fisheries came there after about a year, made some enquiries and recommended that licences need not be issued to these five fishermen, even though they were really entitled to get them. Therefore will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter, accept the recommendation of the Collector and issue licences to these five fishermen? These fishermen are now unemployed and their families are starving.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Originally it was decided that it should be left to the Assistant Director of Fisheries to decide each case referred to by petitioners in the light of the findings of the enquiry and proceed with the issue of licences for 1956, in accordance with rules and conditions laid down by the Government in their orders issued in December 1955 and subsequently amended. Then, Sir, some writ petitions were filed in the High Court. The Additional Director has been asked to examine all the existing rules and conditions thoroughly in the light of the judgment of the High Court on the writ petition when received and submit consolidated terms and conditions for the consideration of the Government.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY: In order to show their *bona fides* in the matter would the Government either bring in a legislation or pass an order saying that all the fishermen certified to be rich either by the District Collector or the Tahsildar would be prohibited from fishing in these waters and thus take care that the

rich fishermen are not set against the poor fishermen and also not use the competition between them to raise the licence fees so as to bring more profit to the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not feel I stand before the dock of this House so as to prove the *bona fides* of the Government.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : May I inform the Hon. Minister that there was no dispute about the issue of the licence but that there was a dispute only in regard to the residential qualifications of these five fishermen? The village officer gave the certificate and the District Collector made enquiries and said they were entitled to get their licences according to their residential qualifications. The Assistant Director of Fisheries agreed to this recommendation. Afterwards the Additional Director of Fisheries came there and he passed an order refusing the issue of licences. As a result of this they are suffering. They are poor people with big families. They should be helped. Therefore may I request the Hon. Minister to enquire into the matter and redress their real grievances?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the Collector has been been asked to make enquiries about the complaints against the village munsif of Madai and submit his report.

The Madras Land Revenue (Additional Surcharge) Act, 1955

* 275 Q.—SRI C. KANDASAMY (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) when orders were issued by the Board of Revenue for the collection of the surcharge under the Madras Land Revenue (Additional Surcharge) Act, 1955, for the fasli 1365 ; and

(*b*) whether any rules have been framed under this Act?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Instructions for the calculation and collection of surcharge under the Madras Land Revenue (Additional Surcharge) Act, 1955, were issued by the Board of Revenue on 15th March 1956.

(*b*) Yes. Copies of the rules issued in the matter were placed on the table of the Assembly on 17th March 1956.

Payment of pension to the aided and local board elementary school teachers

* 276 Q.—SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the framing of rules and the other necessary preliminaries for the payment of pension to the aided and local board elementary school teachers in the State have been completed ; and

(*b*) if so, the date from which such payment will be made?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) From the 1st April 1955.